

2015 Annual Nebraska Rural Health Conference

Mark your calendars for this year's annual Nebraska Rural Health Conference scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday September 16-17, at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney, Nebraska.

The annual conference provides a forum to address rural health concerns and to develop and promote effective solutions at the local, state and national levels. This year the conference will cover key issues ranging from national trends impacting rural health, such as population health strategies, health information technology, community paramedicine/community health workers, the impact of Accountable Care Act, changes to the Nebraska Health Professional Incentive Act, meaningful use, the implementation of the community health needs assessment plans in Nebraska and much more.

This year's first keynote speaker, Laura Adams, is CEO of the Rhode Island Quality Institute. Few would dispute that the health care system isn't performing up to its potential. The problems are highly complex and no entity acting alone can solve them. As new payment models begin to reward healthy populations, there is a dawning realization that "come and get it care" is a thing of the past — and of what it truly takes to drive the metrics that will determine the reach of an organization's mission and their degree of financial success. Laura's presentation will address what's needed to create a health care system worthy of the patient and family's trust — a new definition of health, new ways to tell the truth about our performance, and a recognition that the patient/family are already in control of their health. When these principles guide design, we can create a health care system worthy of the trust of those who depend on it literally for their lives.

The following keynote speakers will be Mary DeVany, the director of the Great Plains Telehealth Resource and Assistance Center, who will be discussing the future of telemedicine, and Eric Shell of Stroudwater Associates with his presentation entitled "Healthcare Environment in Transition: Opportunities for Rural Health Systems" To round out the conference, the final keynote session will feature the Brock Slabach of the National Rural Health Association. Slabach is the Senior Vice President for Member Services at the NRHA and will wrap up the conference with a look at rural health across the county and a federal advocacy update.

Join us September 16-17, 2015 and visit the Nebraska Rural Health Association web site www.nebraskaruralhealth.org for more information and registration. For more information regarding sponsorship, contact Christy Beckman at the Nebraska Rural Health Association 402-421-2356 or at cbeckman@mwhc-inc.com.